

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAB-01 SAM-01 SCCT-02 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 011123Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2024

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY DECIDES TO REMAIN
IN COALITION

REF: TEL AVIV 1862

1. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MARCH 31
VOTED (296-198-7) TO ENDORSE PREVIOUS DECISION TAKEN BY MOE
UNRESTRICTED PARTY INSTITUTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN COALITION
GOVERNMENT. VOTING WAS BY SECRET BALLOT BUT APPARENTLY
FOLLOWED FACTIONAL LINES WITH SUPPORTERS OF MINISTERS BURG
AND RAPHAEL FAVORING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AGAINST THE
OPPOSITION OF YOUTH FACTION, RELIGIOUS KIBBUTZIM AND FOLLOWERS
OF FORMER MINISTER WARHAFTIG.

2. HEATED FOUR HOUR DEBATE PRECEDING THE VOTE, AT WHICH
EMBOFF WAS PRESENT, HIGHLIGHTED FUNDAMENTAL DIVISION BETWEEN
MODERATES AND HARDLINERS WHICH IS THREATENING TO SPLIT PARTY.
FORMER STRESSED THEIR READINESS TO WORK FROM WITHIN
GOVERNMENT FOR NEW LEGISLATION ON WHO IS A JEW ISSUE AND IN
PARTICULAR TO ABIDE BY COALITION AGREEMENT STIPULATING THAT
MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WILL PROPOSE CORRECTIVE SOLUTION WITHIN
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A YEAR. HARDLINERS INSISTED THAT NRP LEAVE THE COALITION NOW,

CLAIMING THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF DESIRED LEGISLATION ON WHO IS A JEW WAS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY GIVEN COMPOSITION OF COLATION AND RENEWING THEIR CALL FOR IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT.

3. SOVIAL WELFARE MINISTER HAZANI HAS THREATENED TO RESIGN FROM THE CABINET ON GROUNDS THAT HE CANNOT RECONCILE NRP DECISION TO STAY IN GOVERNMENT WITH OPPOSITION OF CHIEF RABBINATE, BUT APPARENTLY HAS TAKEN NO FINAL DECISION.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT NRP CAN SAFELY BE COUNTED IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS DURING REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HAZANI PERSONALLY REMAINS A MINISTER. NEXT AND PERHAPS MORE SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVAL WILL ARISE PROBABLY IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLICATION OF AGRANAT COMMISSION'S INTERIM REPORT EXPECTED LATER THIS MONTH.
VELIOTES

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NNN

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